

San Jose May 18th 1891 P.O.Box 286

Sereno Watson Esqr

Dear Sir;

Your letter of the 6th inst, came to hand in due season, and also the Memorial of Professor Asa Gray, the perusal of which, interested me very much. His was a life of even tenor, and always actively progressive; whose works have been helpful to many individuals, an honor and an advantage to the great Institution, with which he was connected, beneficent, as regards his community, and a benefit to his country and his time. His was a character to respect, to love and admire.

Your letter contained the full answer to the inquiries, which I made of you, and for which I am much obliged.

The statement which I made to the State Medical Society, of the development of the Botany of California, is but a brief sketch, and the subject is deserving of a more extended history, but it happened that the appointment of the President of the Society, under which I acted, was addressed to my former residence, in San Francisco, and from thence, through oversight, was not forwarded to me; and when the President, who lives in Sacramento, had learned of my removal to this place, and wrote to me here, it had got to be close on to the time of the annual meeting; so that I had but little time for the preparation, especially as my sources of information, were mostly in San Francisco and at Berkeley; and then my health is such

that I am not able to perform work rapidly. The brief sketch may serve as a hint to some future historian of the State, and I believe that the Whitney Geological Survey, should occupy something of space in its history.

The California State Medical Society, publishes its Transactions in an annual volume, the number of copies published, not being much in excess of the membership; but I may have my brief paper re-printed, together with another brief article which I have not yet re-published, in pamphlet form; and in which case I shall take pleasure in sending you a copy; but when a man has arrived at about the allotted seventy years and has become encumbered with many disabling infirmities, he is unable to make definite calculation, as to what he can perform in the future.

, Yours Very Truly;

W. M. Chipman M.D.

P.S. I will send you a specimen of Chinese coinage, of which I have a number. The coin is not in use here, except among the Chinese themselves, and I am informed is of but little value; but I have not met with any one, who is able to decipher the characters with which it is impressed: Perhaps Harvard may have a scholar who can do that.

I thought that, perhaps, it might be an addition to your coin collection, if you are interested therein, or that of some friend.

W. A. C.